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9 February 1994

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PREPARATORY COMMITTEE FOR THE WORLD
SUMMIT FOR SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT
First session
31 January-11 February 1994
Agenda item 7

ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE PREPARATORY COMMITTEE

Draft report

I. ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS

A. Opening and duration of the session

1. The Preparatory Committee held its first session at United Nations Headquarters from 31 January to 11 February 1994. The Preparatory Committee held ___ meetings (1st to ___) and a number of informal meetings.

2. The session was opened by the Chairman of the Preparatory Committee.

3. At the 1st meeting, on 31 January, the Secretary-General addressed the Preparatory Committee.

4. At the same meeting, the Chairman of the Preparatory Committee made an introductory statement.

B. Attendance

5. The following States were represented: Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Cameroon, Canada, Chile, China, Colombia, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Estonia, Finland, France, Gambia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Holy See, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia,

Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Micronesia, Morocco, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Romania, Russian Federation, Rwanda, Senegal, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sri Lanka, Suriname, Swaziland, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Uruguay, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

6. The following units and programmes of the United Nations were represented: United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), United Nations International Drug Control Programme, United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), World Food Programme (WFP), Economic Commission for Africa, Economic Commission for Europe, Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and United Nations Research Institute for Social Development.

7. The following specialized agencies were represented: International Labour Organization, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, World Health Organization, World Bank, International Monetary Fund, World Intellectual Property Organization and United Nations Industrial Development Organization.

8. The following intergovernmental organizations were represented: Asian-African Legal Consultative Committee, European Economic Community, Latin American Economic System (SELA) and Organization of African Unity.

9. The Conference of African Ministers Responsible for Human Development was represented.

10. The following non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council were represented:

Category I: International Chamber of Commerce, International Confederation of Free Trade Unions, International Council of Voluntary Agencies, International Council on Social Welfare;

Category II: American Association of Jurists, Bahá'í International Community, Disabled People's International, International Federation of Settlements and Neighbourhood Centres, Rehabilitation International, Service, Justice and Peace in Latin America and Women's International League for Peace and Freedom.

11. The following non-governmental organizations were also represented: Development Alternatives with Women for a New Era (DAWN), Education International, International Association for Adult Education, International

Institute for Sustainable Development, Netherlands Organization for International Development Cooperation, Rights of the Child Caucus, Women's Environment and Development Organization and World Citizens Assembly.

C. Officers

12. The officers, who were elected by the Preparatory Committee at its organizational session, remained:

Chairman: Juan Somavía (Chile)

Vice-Chairmen: Australia, Cameroon, Denmark (ex officio), India, Indonesia, Latvia, Mexico, Netherlands, Poland and Zimbabwe.

D. Agenda and organization of work

13. At its 1st meeting, on 31 January, the Preparatory Committee adopted the provisional agenda contained in document A/CONF.166/PC/5. The agenda was as follows:

1. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters.

2. Accreditation of non-governmental organizations in accordance with the rules for their participation set out in Preparatory Committee decision 2.

3. Status of the preparations for the World Summit for Social Development.

4. Analysis of the core issues to be addressed by the Summit and policy measures to attain its objectives in accordance with General Assembly resolution 47/92.

5. Draft provisional rules of procedure of the Summit.

6. Arrangements and provisional agenda for the second session of the Preparatory Committee.

7. Adoption of the report of the Preparatory Committee.

14. At the same meeting, the Preparatory Committee approved its proposed organization of work as contained in document A/CONF.166/PC/L.5.

E. Accreditation of non-governmental organizations in accordance with the rules for their participation set out in Preparatory Committee decision 2

15. At its 1st meeting, on 31 January, the Preparatory Committee approved the list of non-governmental organizations recommended for accreditation in document A/CONF.166/PC/11.

F. Status of the preparations for the World Summit for Social Development

Analysis of the core issues to be addressed by the Summit and policy measures to attain its objectives in accordance with General Assembly resolution 47/92

16. The Preparatory Committee considered agenda items 3 and 4 at its 1st to 9th and ___ meetings, from 31 January to 4 February and on __ February 1994.

17. The Preparatory Committee held a general discussion of the items at its 1st to 9th meetings, from 31 January to 4 February.

18. At the 1st meeting, on 31 January the Under-Secretary-General for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development made an introductory statement.

19. At the same meeting, statements were made by the representatives of Algeria (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77), Malta, Slovenia, the United States of America and Zimbabwe.

20. At the 2nd meeting, on 31 January, statements were made by the representatives of Argentina, Australia and the Russian Federation.

21. At the same meeting, the following non-governmental organizations also made statements: International Confederation of Free Trade Unions, Netherlands Organization for International Development Cooperation, American Association of Jurists, Bahá'í International Community, International Association for Adult Education and International Institute for Sustainable Development.

22. At the 3rd meeting, on 1 February, statements were made by the representatives of Brazil, Denmark, India, Colombia, Jamaica and Peru.

23. At the same meeting, the representative of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean made a statement.

24. Statements were also made by the representatives of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and the World Health Organization.

25. At the 4th meeting, on 1 February, statements were made by the representatives of Kenya and Japan.

26. At the same meeting the representative of the Conference of African Ministers Responsible for Human Development made a statement.

27. Statements were also made by the representatives of the World Bank, the International Labour Organization, the United Nations Industrial Development Organization and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization.

28. The representatives of the United Nations Children's Fund, the United Nations Research Institute for Social Development and the United Nations International Drug Control Programme also made statements.

29. At the same meeting, statements were made by the observers for the following non-governmental organizations: International Chamber of Commerce (also on behalf of the International Organisation of Employers), Education International and Women's International League for Peace and Freedom (also on behalf of Afro-Asian People's Solidarity Organization, Arab Lawyers' Union, Arab Organization for Human Rights, Commission of the Churches on International Affairs of the World Council of Churches, Food First International Action Network, Habitat International Coalition, Indian Council of South America, International Youth and Student Movement for the United Nations, Lutheran World Federation, OMCT/SOS Torture, Third World Movement Against the Exploitation of Women, Union of Arab Jurists, Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, World Alliance of Reformed Churches, World Alliance of Young Men's Christian Associations, World Christian Life Community, World Conference on Religion and Peace, World Federation of Trade Unions, World Peace Council, World Student Christian Federation and World Young Women's Christian Association).

30. At the 5th meeting, on 2 February, statements were made by the representatives of Greece (on behalf of the European Economic Community), Mexico, Austria, the Republic of Korea, Indonesia, Israel, Sweden (also on behalf of Denmark, Finland, Iceland and Norway), Germany, Namibia, Venezuela, the Netherlands and Guyana.

31. The representative of the United Nations Development Programme also made a statement.

32. At the same meeting, statements were made by the observers for the following non-governmental organizations: World Citizen's Assembly and International Council on Social Welfare.

33. At the 6th meeting, on 2 February, statements were made by the representatives of Croatia, Uruguay, Slovakia, Canada, the Niger and Sierra Leone.

34. A statement was also made by the representative of the United Nations Population Fund.

35. At the same meeting, statements were made by the observers for the following non-governmental organizations: Development Alternatives with Women for a New Era (DAWN); Service, Justice and Peace in Latin America and the Rights of the Child Caucus.

36. At the 7th meeting, on 3 February, statements were made by the representatives of Sri Lanka, Switzerland, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Latvia, France, Benin, the Holy See, Ghana, the Bahamas and the Islamic Republic of Iran.

37. The observer for the Latin American Economic System (SELA) also made a statement.

38. At the same meeting, statements were made by the observers for the following non-governmental organizations: International Federation of Settlements and Neighbourhood Centres and Women's Environment and Development Organization.

39. At the 8th meeting, on 3 February, statements were made by the representatives of Lithuania, Turkey, Nicaragua (also on behalf of Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Panama), Egypt, Paraguay, Italy, China, Togo, Nepal, Cameroon, Algeria, Spain, Côte d'Ivoire and Nigeria.

40. Statements were also made by the representatives of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and the World Food Programme.

41. At the same meeting, statements were made by the observers for the following non-governmental organizations: Disabled People's International and International Council of Voluntary Agencies.

42. At the 9th meeting, on 4 February, statements were made by the representatives of Ukraine, Pakistan, Zambia, Romania, Bangladesh, Cuba, Malaysia, Albania, Belarus, Bulgaria, the Philippines, Liberia, Estonia, Jordan, Thailand, Tunisia and Mauritania.

43. The observer for Rehabilitation International, a non-governmental organization, also made a statement.

44. At the 10th meeting, on 4 February, the Chairman made concluding remarks with respect to the general discussion on agenda items 3 and 4.

G. Draft provisional rules of procedure of the Summit

45. At its 10th meeting, on 4 February 1994, the Preparatory Committee, on the proposal of the Chairman, decided to defer its substantive debate on agenda item 5 to its next session, to be held in August 1994.

H. Documentation

46. The documents before the Preparatory Committee will be listed in an annex to the final report.

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SUMMIT FOR SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT
First session
31 January-11 February 1994
Agenda item 4

ANALYSIS OF THE CORE ISSUES TO BE ADDRESSED BY THE SUMMIT AND POLICY MEASURES TO ATTAIN ITS OBJECTIVES IN ACCORDANCE WITH GENERAL ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION 47/92

Note by the Secretariat

Elements for possible inclusion in a text to be adopted by the Preparatory Committee

The Preparatory Committee

1. Decides to consider at its second session draft outcomes of the World Summit for Social Development, which should consist of a draft declaration and a draft programme of action;

2. Requests the Secretary-General to prepare the drafts within the framework of the objectives assigned to the World Summit by the General Assembly in its resolution 47/92 and in the light of the debates that took place in the Economic and Social Council in 1993 and during the first substantive session of the Preparatory Committee;

3. Also decides that the report of the Secretary-General on the draft declaration and draft programme of action should be prepared in light of the following overall views:

(a) Social development - and particularly the eradication of poverty, the creation of employment opportunities and the strengthening of social integration - should become a major priority of our time;

(b) Human security, based on solidarity at the national and international level, is a key objective of the international community;

(c) In the global community, social problems are intensifying; social conflicts are frequent; inequities and poverty remain prevalent. Anxiety about violence is widespread, and large sections of many societies are experiencing a strong sense of exclusion. Unemployment is growing. Social integration is under stress in many societies. The World Summit was called to address these problems;

(d) Social development, which is a facet of a holistic process, requires the strong involvement of all actors on the national and international scene. Individuals, civil society, private enterprises, organizations and institutions, public institutions and the State, regional and international organizations with different mandates and responsibilities - all have a role to play for the betterment of the human condition. National action and international cooperation are complementary;

(e) There is need for an ethical perspective on human affairs, where dialogue and tolerance replace violence, human dignity is the central value, and the spiritual, material and cultural aspects of the human condition are developed harmoniously in a context of freedom and democracy.

4. Further decides that the draft declaration should:

(a) Be in three parts: common challenges justifying the Summit; a set of goals, principles and policies constituting a strategy to be implemented by all actors concerned; the expression of commitments, follow-up and responsibilities;

(b) Be shaped by the conviction that the welfare of people, in all its aspects, should be the rationale and ultimate goal of all policies and measures at the national and international level;

(c) Reflect a common vision of world affairs and of the future of mankind where partnership and the search for the common good link social development, improvement of living conditions and resolution of conflicts;

(d) Initiate a major reorientation of a number of ideas and policies on development and the progress of human societies;

(e) Remain concise and express common values, objectives and policies, as well as the need to exchange ideas and to learn from each other's experience;

(f) Recall previous commitments made through international instruments, conventions and declarations.

5. Also decides that the draft programme of action should:

(a) Have five parts: an enabling economic and global environment for social development; the eradication of poverty; the expansion of productive employment; enhancement of social integration; the role of the United Nations system, including its financial institutions;

(b) Reflect the fact that the reduction and elimination of poverty, the creation of productive and useful employment, and the realization of social integration through freedom, shared values and non-discrimination are related aspects of social progress, requiring diversified measures and policies, including sustainable economic growth, an equitable distribution of income and opportunities within and among countries, the rule of law and the development of democratic institutions;

(c) Be based on common principles and basic values applicable to all societies, while recognizing that policies should be adjusted to national circumstances and that the major responsibility for social development rests at the national level;

(d) Set forth the concrete actions to be taken by Governments, civil society, regional organizations and the international community, including possible quantified targets;

(e) Address the overall development problems of the least developed countries and of Africa, as well as the specific problems of the countries with changing economies and social political structures;

(f) Be formulated concisely and address in each of its sections the key priority actions necessary to the achievement of the goals related to the three core issues;

(g) Take into account the objectives and targets of recent related conferences - notably, the World Summit for Children, the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development and the World Conference on Human Rights - and of forthcoming events, including the International Conference on Population and Development and the Fourth World Conference on Women.

6. Notes that the three core issues identified by the General Assembly for consideration by the Summit and presented in the present decision and its annex (in an order which differs from that in the General Assembly resolution) are fundamental aspects of social development which have specific features and intensity in different societies and regions.

7. Also decides that in preparing the draft outcomes of the World Summit, the Secretary-General should take into account, inter alia, the Secretariat's summary of issues and elements contained in the annex to the present decision.

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ANALYSIS OF THE CORE ISSUES TO BE ADDRESSED BY THE SUMMIT AND POLICY MEASURES TO ATTAIN ITS OBJECTIVES IN ACCORDANCE WITH GENERAL ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION 47/92

Note by the Secretariat

Elements for possible inclusion in a text to be adopted by the Preparatory Committee

Addendum

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Annex

ELEMENTS MENTIONED FOR THE DRAFT DECLARATION AND DRAFT PROGRAMME OF ACTION

I. ELEMENTS MENTIONED FOR THE DRAFT DECLARATION

1. Under common challenges justifying the Summit, the following were cited:

National action and international cooperation are required to address social development problems;

A number of social problems and social tensions are threatening the world community;

Need for a new social contract or social pact; need for a renewed vision of social progress;

Conviction that actions and remedies are possible;

All actors are concerned and have a role to play;

Dialogue and cooperation are the avenues for development;

Persistence of poverty, aggravation of inequities and inequalities;

The risk of dual society and a dual international community;

Effects of globalization; rapid social changes;

Social and moral crisis in a number of societies.

2. The following goals, principles and policies (a world social development strategy) were mentioned:

Development is an all-inclusive process;

The eradication of poverty, full employment, a greater social integration, are attainable goals through national actions and international cooperation;

Social development as a condition for peace and security;

Social development as a condition for economic development;

Need for sustainable growth;

Importance of population issues and demographic trends;

Human dignity as a fundamental objective for development;

Human security as a central aspect of international cooperation;

The relation between the three core issues and human rights, including the right to development;

The central role of women and their status as a yardstick to assess social development;

The key role of education, training, and access to knowledge;

The meeting of fundamental needs (food, shelter, health);

Access to information and technology; role and responsibility of image makers and media;

The identification of priority areas;

The setting of targets at the national, regional and perhaps international level, notably for poverty eradication.

3. Under commitment follow-up and responsibilities, the following were noted:

Need for a code of ethics; importance of moral and spiritual dimensions of human beings and societies;

Recognition that there is no blueprint ready-made solutions, comprehensive theories, for development and social progress;

Situation of least developed countries, and of Africa;

Situation in countries in transition (economies, social systems and values);

Need to restore trust in institutions including government; deleterious effects of corruption at all levels of society;

Central role and responsibilities of national Governments;

Need to build on successful policies and experience of national Governments;

Need for diversified policies and measures;

Differences in national conditions requiring differentiated responses;

Role of individuals as citizens;

Role of community organizations, civil society;

International cooperation for enabling national responses;

Need for mobilization of all resources (human, institutional) at national level;

Poor and unemployed represent a waste of resources;

Economic and social responsibilities of transnational corporations and other large institutions;

Mobilization of resources for social development through the United Nations system and overall coherence of United Nations system efforts;

Role of financial institutions;

Need for an efficient monitoring procedure.

II. ELEMENTS MENTIONED FOR A DRAFT PROGRAMME OF ACTION

4. The thrust of the programme of action is based on:

The importance of people-centred and inclusive approaches to development;

The interdependence of social and economic aspects of development;

The need for development to be genuine and sustainable;

The need to focus on underlying causes of problems; attempts should be made to prevent rather than alleviate problems;

The centrality of human rights;

The need for specific attention to women and children;

The importance of empowerment;

The need to concentrate on people and countries which are most disadvantaged or vulnerable.

5. It was also suggested that what is needed is a new concept of "human security". The traditional concept of security, focused primarily on the security of States and based mainly on military components, should be replaced by a broader concept that includes social, economic, environmental, cultural, religious and ethical aspects. In this definition, the personal security of individuals and communities, based on sufficient income, education, health and housing, should be given priority. Human security should be understood to be based on solidarity within societies; there should be no expression of fear of the poor, and social development must be considered a right of people and not simply a means to security.

6. The need to create a "world culture for social development" was suggested. Such a culture would be participatory in nature, transmit information to all its

members, and devote resources previously assigned to military purposes to investment in human resources.

7. It was suggested that poverty should be considered a challenge to all mankind, not just a problem of poor individuals or countries. There is a need for harmony among developed and developing countries to recognize their responsibility to the poor in the form of timely, sensitive and strategic support.

A. An enabling environment

8. A prerequisite for social development is social peace through social partnership.

9. An enabling environment should contain certain elements:

Growth with social justice;

A favourable international trade and financial environment;

The need for debt reduction;

The importance of national macroeconomic policies;

Social dimension of macroeconomic adjustments;

Discussion of taxation systems to enhance productive, long-term investments;

The need to reconsider public expenditure priorities;

The need to revise national accounting procedures to more properly reflect the social and environmental costs of economic decisions;

The need for reliable and standardized indicators;

The need to pay special attention to the dimensions of the problems in Africa and the least developed countries.

10. An enabling environment should not be confined to the United Nations system but should also involve the international financial and trade institutions and other intergovernmental organizations.

11. An enabling environment is not just economic. Social and economic development must be sustainable, and the relationship between national strategies and the global environment must be considered.

B. The alleviation and reduction of poverty

12. In addressing the question of poverty, the long-term goal is the elimination of poverty in all countries; the alleviation and reduction of poverty are steps towards that long-term goal.

13. While programmes for alleviating and reducing poverty are undertaken primarily at the local and national level, they depend on a favourable international environment, including access to international trade and capital markets, fair prices for commodities and debt relief.

14. It must be recognized that the elimination of poverty is an ethical imperative.

15. Education and training are key conditions for the reduction of poverty. Efforts to reduce poverty need to focus on the root causes of poverty.

16. The development of a national anti-poverty programme must be a multidisciplinary integrated approach, including mobilization of public support, developing the legislative framework and policy direction, building institutions and capacity throughout civil society, and establishing practical measures to increase opportunities.

17. Economic reform and structural adjustment programmes must include measures to ensure that the poor are not harmed by the economic and social disruptions caused.

18. The programme of action should take into account the different levels of poverty that exist in different countries.

19. Particular attention must be given to the least developed countries. The programme of action should take into account the African Common Position on Human and Social Development in Africa, presented by the Conference of African Ministers Responsible for Human Development.

20. The specific problems of countries in transition must also be addressed.

1. Mobilizing local, national, regional and international efforts to reduce poverty and promote equity

Improving distribution of wealth and income by various means, including taxation and public spending policies;

Improving income-generating opportunities for poor people, particularly in the private sector through local savings and investment;

Empowering the poor, including through encouragement and support of self-help programmes;

Social emergency funds and social investment funds;

Ensuring participation of the poor in the planning and implementation of anti-poverty programmes, including through decentralization of public services;

Prioritizing and targeting specific groups, especially the poorest and most vulnerable, including through regional and sectoral programmes;

Protecting the rights of the poor as full citizens, including the right to democratic participation, and the right to organize and defend their interests;

Mobilization of public support and political will for anti-poverty programmes.

2. Strengthening basic social structures and services

Supporting the family as the basic social unit and primary source of social security;

Improving the efficiency and effectiveness of social services, including strengthening of social institutions and programme management;

Ensuring the widest possible availability of information on social services;

Eradicating illiteracy;

Ensuring universal access to quality education and training;

Ensuring universal access to health care, family planning, clean water and sanitation;

Ensuring universal access to sound and affordable housing, encouraging use of local materials;

Supporting families and informal community services.

3. Alleviation and reduction of poverty among women

Combating the feminization of poverty;

Ensuring that women have equal access to social services, particularly education and training, health, family planning and child care;

Ensuring women's equitable access to credit and other productive inputs.

4. Alleviating and reducing rural poverty

Land reform and redistribution;

Improving rural transport, water supplies and other infrastructure;

Improving availability of credit and agricultural inputs;

Improving rural markets;

Promoting food security at affordable prices through agricultural development;

Promoting non-agricultural production in rural areas, particularly through encouragement of entrepreneurship, small businesses and labour-intensive industry.

5. Reducing poverty in fragile ecosystems

Promoting sustainable development;

Increasing research on sustainable production techniques;

Employing people in conservation programmes.

6. Reducing urban poverty in developing countries

Improving conditions in the informal sector and for the working poor;

Promoting labour-intensive industry;

Improving public health, sanitation and shelter for the urban poor;

Improving conditions in spontaneous settlements;

Encouraging and supporting community self-help activities.

7. Strengthening social security policies and programmes

Developing alternatives to traditional welfare;

Improving conditions for the working poor;

Assisting single parents and their children;

Protecting children from abuse and exploitation;

Protecting the elderly, the disabled and other vulnerable groups;

Reintegrating drug addicts, alcoholics, delinquents, street children and others excluded from society.

8. Monitoring poverty and assessing anti-poverty programmes

Establishing practical indicators of poverty, particularly for the poorest of the poor;

Establishing indicators for food, education, health, housing and other basic needs;

Improving monitoring mechanisms at the local, national and international levels;

Improving the collection, analysis and dissemination of data and information.

9. Reducing poverty and rebuilding social structures in war-torn societies

Rebuilding social structures and institutions;

Rebuilding solidarity through education and culture.

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Note by the Secretariat

Elements for possible inclusion in a text to be adopted by the Preparatory Committee

Addendum

C. Expansion of productive employment

21. In expanding productive employment, the long-term goal should be full, productive and freely chosen employment.

22. It should be recognized that expansion of employment is not the same as reduction of unemployment, particularly in view of a growing labour-force in many countries. Consideration may therefore need to be given to specific measures for reducing unemployment.

23. While programmes for expanding productive employment are undertaken primarily at the local and national levels, they depend on a favourable international environment, including access to international trade and capital markets, fair prices for commodities, technology transfer and debt relief.

24. Economic reform and structural adjustment programmes must take into account employment objectives.

25. Particular attention must be given to the least developed countries. The programme of action should take into account the African Common Position on Human and Social Development in Africa, presented by the Conference of African Ministers Responsible for Human Development.

26. The specific problems of countries in transition must also be addressed.

27. The programme of action should include mechanisms for exchange of national experience in job creation and on other employment issues.

1. Ensuring that economic growth creates jobs

Establishing a sound macroeconomic environment;

Improving the legislative and institutional framework for job creation;

Encouraging sound industrial relations practices;

Using fiscal policy to encourage job creation;

Reducing disincentives to hiring new workers, including unnecessary regulations.

2. Improving patterns of investment and economic activity

Improving access to international markets;

Encouraging private sector investment;

Promoting local savings and investment;

Promoting labour-intensive technologies and technologies that conserve natural resources and protect the environment.

3. Promoting small and medium-sized enterprises

Providing support services for small and medium-sized enterprises, including management training;

Encouraging and facilitating self-employment and entrepreneurship;

Promoting cooperatives;

Promoting artisanal industry.

4. Improving the quality of the workforce

Improving health care and nutrition;

Improving basic employment literacy;

Developing effective education and training programmes, including vocational training;

Adapting education and training to productive employment opportunities and to new technologies;

Developing and improving retraining programmes;

Involving private enterprise in education and training programmes.

5. Improving labour markets

Improving labour market information;

Strengthening employment services and job counselling;

Combining labour flexibility and worker mobility with economic security.

6. Promoting employment opportunities and advancement for women

Ensuring equality of opportunity in employment;

Improving access of women and girls to education and training;

Improving access of women to productive assets, particularly credit.

7. Improving employment opportunities for vulnerable groups

Reintegrating the long-term unemployed in the labour market;

Increasing employment opportunities and overcoming labour market disadvantages of young people;

Ensuring continuing employment opportunities for the elderly;

Targeting regions of concentrated unemployment.

8. Enhancing employment in the rural and informal sectors

Improving access to assets, including land, credit, technology, and markets;

Constructing and maintaining infrastructure, particularly in rural areas;

Improving employment and working conditions in the informal sector;

Improving overall living and employment conditions in rural areas, in part to reduce rural-urban migration.

9. Protecting the rights of workers

Ensuring implementation of international conventions, including the freedom of association, the right to organize and collective bargaining, abolition of forced labour, equal remuneration, and the elimination of discrimination in employment;

Improving employment security for workers in precarious, short-term and part-time jobs;

Eliminating abuses of child labour.

10. Strengthening dialogue between Governments, employers and workers

Strengthening workers and employers organizations;

Encouraging social partners to jointly address social issues relating to employment.

11. Integrating migrants into labour markets

12. Reducing mass unemployment

Establishing national unemployment thresholds for emergency programmes.

13. Pursuing new approaches to work and employment

Developing options for flexible voluntary working arrangement, such as job-sharing, work-sharing and flexible working hours;

Creating socially useful jobs such as services for the elderly, environmental protection and housing rehabilitation, possibly supported with fiscal incentives.

D. Enhancing social integration

1. Integration through shared values (see draft declaration)

2. Promoting equality of opportunity

Access to the institutions of society; ensuring justice and the rule of law;

Access to information and to knowledge;

Access to credit and property.

3. Counteracting social exclusion

There should be a universal recognition of the unacceptability of social exclusion;

The task must be to identify and remove the barriers to social integration;

There is a need to strengthen community structures and networks.

4. Bringing government closer to the people; new systems of governance

Empowering people is a central conceptual framework for social integration; an "agenda for people" is required;

Decentralization;

Open, accessible and accountable institutions.

5. Supporting and encouraging the organizations of civil society

Promoting community organizations and action;

Encouraging the role and contributions of non-governmental organizations, particularly to define, develop and implement programmes at the grass roots;

Recognizing the role of the private sector in providing social services;

Recognizing the important role of the media in transmitting information and forming values, effective and free institutions are required. At the same time, concern must be expressed about and attention given to its potential for disseminating "anti-values".

6. Providing for human needs: investing in people

Ensuring access to education and information for all by improving and ensuring the quality and relevance of education and the training of teachers, eliminating discrimination in provision of education, and ensuring that education reflects basic shared values, such as tolerance and peace;

Ensuring access to health.

7. Gender equity and the empowerment of women

The status of women in a society is a measure of its development;

There is need to empower women within families, communities and societies;

Women should be ensured full participation at all levels of decision-making;

There is a special need to ensure that women have access to productive resources such as credit and property;

Targeting incentives to enhance the economic role of women;

The multiplier effect of "investments in women".

8. Recognizing and supporting the family

Families provide basic stability, social cohesion and a bridge between the individual and the community;

Families are vital for transmitting on cultural and social values.

9. Treatment of minorities

Ethnic, religious, racial minorities;

Indigenous peoples;

Migrants;

Refugees;

Foreigners.

28. The fundamental shared values must apply equally to all members of society, and services should be provided on an equal basis to all members of society.

10. Empowering the marginalized and securing the advancement of people with special needs

People with disabilities;

Youth;

The elderly;

Children - survivability, protection and development;

"The permanently excluded", including the homeless, alcoholics, drug abusers, etc.

29. There is a need to identify better the groups which are marginalized and to establish structures to integrate them.

11. Special situation of certain countries

Least developed countries;

Africa;

Countries in transition;

Countries suffering from war and civil strife - their need for policies of rehabilitation and reconciliation and for international cooperation;

Countries affected by natural disaster.

12. Implementation

30. It is important to recognize the body of existing international conventions, treaties, agreements, declarations and programmes of action in the area of social development and social integration. The first task should be to seek wider ratification and better implementation of these existing instruments.

31. Policies should seek to empower all groups and individuals in society. Policies and programmes should strive to be cost-effective and efficient, concentrating on improving social returns. It is essential to identify and ensure the provision of adequate resources. The social impact of international development assistance and, specifically, of policies for structural adjustment, should be taken into greater consideration. Social policy should strive to integrate the marginalized individuals and groups and not merely maintain them in their marginal situations. Planning strategies should adopt a bottom-up approach.

32. There is general consensus on the need to define a framework for social integration. Social development is a dynamic, continuous process which should not be constricted by status definitions.

E. Implementation and follow-up; role of the United Nations system and financial institutions

33. In addition to the policy options addressed to Governments and other national institutions and the identification of priorities for international cooperative action, the draft programme of action should contain more specific recommendations for concrete actions by the various bodies of the United Nations system, including the international financial institutions. These elements should respond to the General Assembly objective to make recommendations

regarding more effective action by the United Nations system in the sphere of social development - in particular, measures and policies for the revitalization of the Commission for Social Development.

34. The United Nations system, including the international financial institutions, should give higher priority to social development, and consideration should be given to reallocating resources to social development activities within the United Nations system. Clear targets should be set for social development activities, and consideration should be given to ways to increase the resources available for those activities.

35. Activities of the United Nations system in the field of social development should be people-centred and should give priority to the needs of the poor.

36. Activities of the United Nations system in the field of social development should concentrate on supporting national and local efforts, including those of civil society. Consideration should be given to the preparation of studies and data in support of national decision-making.

37. Consideration should be given to enhancing the capacity of the United Nations system better to assist States in addressing their social problems, with emphasis on strengthening existing institutions and programmes rather than creating new bodies.

38. United Nations institutions and programmes should be made more coherent, efficient and effective.

39. The draft programme should include measures for improving the coordination of social development activities within the United Nations system, with particular attention to coordinating the activities of the international financial institutions with those of the rest of the system.

40. Consideration should be given to mechanisms to improve the coordination of the United Nations system with other international, regional and national organizations, including the regional development banks, in the field of social development.

41. The draft programme of action should include mechanisms for international monitoring of its implementation.

42. The draft programme should take into account existing agreements and commitments, including the results of and preparations for other United Nations conferences and events, including the World Summit for Children, the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, the World Conference on Human Rights, the International Year of the Family, the International Conference on Population and Development, and the Fourth World Conference on Women. The Agenda for Peace and the Agenda for Development should also be taken into account.

43. The draft programme should take into account the various social development activities within the United Nations system and should consider how the various agencies can best contribute to the implementation of the programme of action.

Particular attention should be paid to the crucial role of the ILO and the Bretton Woods institutions.

44. Consideration should be given to means for taking social needs and social costs into account in the design and implementation of economic reform and structural adjustment programmes.

45. Consideration should be given to achieving a better balance between the resources of the United Nations available for peace-keeping and the resources available for social development.

46. The draft programme should consider how the Economic and Social Council could improve its role in the coordination and oversight of United Nations economic and social activities, how it could further develop the concept of human security, and how it could cooperate more closely with the Security Council.

47. Consideration should be given to expanding the terms of reference of the Economic Commission for Europe to include matters of social policy and social development.

48. The organizations of the United Nations system should be encouraged actively to participate in the preparatory process and to follow-up to the Summit.

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SUMMIT FOR SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT
First session
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Agenda item 3

STATUS OF THE PREPARATIONS FOR THE WORLD SUMMIT FOR SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

Elements for possible inclusion in a text to be adopted by the Preparatory Committee

Note by the Secretariat

The Preparatory Committee, having completed its first substantive session on the preparation of the World Summit for Social Development, expresses its appreciation to the Bureau for its effective role and to the Secretariat for its support.

A

Trust Fund for the World Summit for Social Development

The Preparatory Committee:

1. Notes the establishment by the Secretary-General of the Trust Fund for the World Summit for Social Development in response to General Assembly resolution 47/92 of 16 December 1992, in order to mobilize the voluntary contributions from public and private sources for the financing of the additional activities required by the preparation and holding of the Summit, and for the financing of the participation of the least developed countries in the Summit and its preparatory process;

2. Recalls that the General Assembly, in its resolution 48/100 of 20 December 1993, invited all States to contribute generously to the voluntary Trust Fund, and also recalls the request it made at its organizational session,

in decision 4, 1/ that the Fund be brought to the attention of Member States and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, as well as foundations, private enterprises and concerned individuals;

3. Notes that contributions to the Fund have so far been made by three Member States, and expresses its appreciation to them for their support;

4. Reiterates the importance of voluntary contributions for the preparatory process of the World Summit, notably with regard to the participation of the least developed countries;

5. Urges all States and private and public organizations and individuals to contribute to the Trust Fund for the World Summit for Social Development.

B

Seminars, workshops and other activities

The Preparatory Committee, having considered the reports of the two expert groups on social integration and employment held in the Netherlands and in Sweden in September and October 1993, and mindful of the importance of a large debate on the core issues of the World Summit for Social Development, involving decision makers, academics, experts, and members of civilian society, from all regions of the world,

1. Expresses its appreciation of the content of above-mentioned reports and for the generosity of the Government of the Netherlands and the Government of Sweden;

2. Encourages the United Nations, the United Nations system, Member States and other concerned actors in the preparatory process of the Summit to organize seminars, workshops and other expert meetings on issues of direct relevance to the Summit, including the question of the alleviation and reduction of poverty.

C

National arrangements and reports

The Preparatory Committee:

1. Recalls decision 3 on national contributions, adopted at its organizational session 1/ in which it emphasized the desirability of promoting national preparations which could include the establishment of national committees or other arrangements to bring together concerned official agencies and non-governmental bodies, the convening of meetings for public discussion of the core issues, and the preparation of national reports;

1/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-eighth Session, Supplement No. 24 (A/48/24), annex II.

2. Also recalls that the General Assembly, in its resolution 48/100, invited all States to set up national committees or other arrangements for the World Summit for Social Development and to hold meetings for public debates on the core issues to be addressed by the Summit;

3. Notes with appreciation that a number of national committees or comparable arrangements are already in place, and urges all States to set up such arrangements as rapidly as possible;

4. Takes note with appreciation of the national reports made available to the Committee at its first session, and encourages the preparation of such reports during the course of 1994.

D

Participation of non-governmental organizations

The Preparatory Committee:

1. Reiterates the importance of the full participation of non-governmental organizations in the preparatory process for the World Summit for Social Development;

2. Stresses that this participation is required at the national level, as well as at the regional and international levels;

3. Recognizes the valuable contribution made by non-governmental organizations at its first session;

4. Encourages all non-governmental organizations to continue to extend their support of and participation in the preparatory process for the Summit, in accordance with established practice;

5. Decides to consider at its second session, in August 1994, the accreditation of additional non-governmental organizations in accordance with the rules for their participation set out in decision 2, adopted at its organizational session. 1/

E

Participation of organizations of the United Nations system

The Preparatory Committee:

1. Welcomes the reports of specialized agencies, programmes and other organizations of the United Nations system and their participation at its first session;

2. Encourages all parts of the United Nations system to continue to contribute to the preparatory process;

3. Stresses the integrated nature of development and the critical role that various institutions, including those having financial responsibilities, should play within their sphere of competence for the successful preparation and follow-up of the World Summit for Social Development;

4. Invites the Secretary-General to facilitate the contribution to the Summit and its preparatory process of all organs, organizations and programmes of the United Nations system and other intergovernmental and regional organizations.

F

Research activities

The Preparatory Committee:

1. Reiterates the important role of research, data collection and analysis, and policy prescription to understanding and action regarding the three core issues,

2. Stresses the importance of ensuring the widest possible contribution to preparations for the World Summit for Social Development and its follow-up;

3. Notes the activities undertaken in the context of the preparations for the Summit by research institutes, and encourages the further planning and undertaking of such research activities;

4. Invites Governments to support the activities of research institutes that are of relevance to the preparation and follow-up of the Summit;

5. Invites the Secretary-General to initiate, with the relevant research institutes, the development of a knowledge base for the follow-up to the Summit; this initiative should also help in creating an international network for the sharing of data, experience and ideas on social development;

6. Requests the Secretary-General to utilize, as appropriate, the findings of research activities relevant to the core issues in the documentation to be prepared for the second session of the Preparatory Committee.

G

Public Information

The Preparatory Committee:

1. Recalls its decision 5 1/ concerning public information for the purpose of creating awareness at local, national, regional and international levels of the core issues of the World Summit for Social Development, as well as of its objectives;

2. Notes the programme of public information proposed by the Department of Public Information, the Joint United Nations Information Committees and other bodies;

3. Stresses the importance of a broad programme of public information and the active involvement of the media in bringing the Summit to the attention of a wide audience;

4. Encourages all organizations and agencies of the United Nations system to include references to the Summit and its core issues in their public information activities.

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DRAFT PROVISIONAL AGENDA FOR THE SECOND SESSION OF THE PREPARATORY COMMITTEE

Note by the Secretariat

1. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters.

2. Accreditation of non-governmental organizations in accordance with the rules for their participation set out in decision 2 of the Preparatory Committee.

3. Status of the preparations for the World Summit for Social Development.

4. Draft outcomes of the World Summit for Social Development: draft declaration and draft programme of action.

5. Draft provisional rules of procedure of the Summit.

6. Provisional agenda for the third session of the Preparatory Committee.

7. Adoption of the report of the Preparatory Committee.

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ARRANGEMENTS AND PROVISIONAL AGENDA FOR THE SECOND SESSION OF THE PREPARATORY COMMITTEE

Note by the Secretariat

1. Subject to approval by the Preparatory Committee, the following documents will be prepared for its second session in August 1994:

1. Draft outcome of the World Summit for Social Development (draft Declaration and draft Programme of Action);

2. Review of existing international commitments by Member States, through international instruments (e.g., conventions and declarations) relevant to social development and the three core issues; this review should include procedures for monitoring and reporting;

3. Completion and updating of Working Paper No. 2: "Activities of the United Nations system with the framework of the core issues";

4. Completion and updating of Working Paper No. 3: "Information on social development publications and indicators in the United Nations system".

2. In addition, the Preparatory Committee requests the Secretary-General to invite the International Labour Organization (ILO), in cooperation with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), to carry out a study on options for making the international economic environment conducive to growth in employment and output.

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ANALYSIS OF THE CORE ISSUES TO BE ADDRESSED BY THE SUMMIT AND POLICY MEASURES TO ATTAIN ITS OBJECTIVES IN ACCORDANCE WITH GENERAL ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION 47/92

Draft decision submitted by the Vice-Chairman of the Preparatory Committee, Mr. Richard Butler (Australia), on the basis of informal consultations

The Preparatory Committee:

1. Decides to consider at its second session a draft on the expected outcome of the World Summit for Social Development which should consist of a draft Declaration and a draft Programme of Action;

2. Requests the Secretary-General to prepare these documents on the basis of the three core issues and the eleven objectives contained in paragraphs 5 and 6 of General Assembly resolution 47/92 of 16 December 1992 and in the light of the debate which took place at the high-level segment of the Economic and Social Council in 1993 and during the first session of the Preparatory Committee, to be issued not later than 1 June 1994;

3. Decides that the draft Declaration should:

(a) Be in three parts consisting of:

(i) A description of the world social situation and reasons for convening the Summit;

(ii) Principles, goals, policy orientations and common challenges to be addressed by all actors at the local, national, regional and international levels;

(iii) An expression of commitment and issues relating to implementation and follow-up;

(b) Remain concise and focused and express common values and objectives for social development policies;

(c) Reaffirm international agreements, instruments, declarations and decisions adopted by the United Nations system relevant to the objectives and core issues of the Summit;

4. Also decides that the draft Programme of Action should lead to the implementation of wide-ranging social development strategies by all the main actors involved at the local, national, regional and international levels. It is important, therefore, to adopt an action-oriented, innovative and effective Programme of Action with clear objectives and activities and appropriate means of implementation. It should consist of five parts:

(a) Parameters for ensuring an enabling environment, at the international and national levels;

(b) Reduction and elimination of widespread poverty;

(c) Productive employment and the reduction of unemployment;

(d) Social integration;

(e) Means of implementation and follow-up, including the role of the United Nations system, international financial institutions and other intergovernmental organizations.

Common aspects of the core issues should be emphasized and treated in an integrated manner. In each of the five operational parts, policies and action should be pursued at the local, national, regional and international levels, identifying, as far as possible, the specific actors at each of these levels;

5. Further decides that, in preparing the draft Declaration and the draft Programme of Action for consideration by the Preparatory Committee at its second session, the Secretary-General should take into account the proposals and elements submitted in connection with the consideration of the present decision by the Preparatory Committee at its first session, and the note prepared by the Secretariat during the course of the first session of the Preparatory Committee; 1/

6. Invites Governments to communicate their views on a draft Declaration and a draft Programme of Action to the Secretariat and requests the Secretariat to circulate those views at the second session of the Preparatory Committee.

1/ See report of the Preparatory Committee on its first session for the text of these proposals, elements and summary.